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For further information about this booklet contact Charles Hobbs, editor, Office Of Communications, Room 556-A, U.S Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250 or call (202) 720-5881.

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Statement-

Release No. 0477.94

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by

THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES ON POSSIBLE CONFUSION BETWEEN THE 1992 FOOD GUIDE PYRAMID AND THE MEDITERRANEAN DIET PYRAMID

June 22, 1994

It is important to emphasize that the U. S. Department of Agriculture and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Food Guide Pyramid should not be confused with a newly released Mediterranean Diet Pyramid which has a similar sounding name and graphic presentation. While there are some similarities, such as an emphasis on eating plenty of fruits, vegetables, and grains daily and on regular physical activity, there are also important differences. Of particular importance is the impression that might be drawn from the Mediterranean Diet Pyramid that it is healthy to use liberal amounts of certain types of fat. While vegetable oils and fats containing primarily unsaturated fat are preferable to more saturated fats with respect to cardiovascular disease risk, most Americans need to reduce their intake of total fat because of the calories it provides as well as its link to certain types of cancer. Furthermore, there is some question as to the potential for low intake of certain micronutrients among women and children with the Mediterranean Diet Pyramid.

Because composition of diets planned according to the Mediterranean Diet Pyramid has not yet received adequate scientific review, USDA and HHS recommend that Americans continue to follow the 1990 Dietary Guidelines for Americans and the 1992 Food Guide Pyramid released by USDA and HHS as the best advice for a healthy diet.

The Dietary Guidelines for Americans and the Food Guide Pyramid provide the basis for consumer education programs carried out by both agencies as well as by The American Dietetic Association (ADA) and American Heart Association (AHA). The Guidelines reflect a consensus of dietary recommendations updated every five years to reflect current scientific research. A committee of nutrition and health experts is now being established to review the research and recommend revisions for the 1995 edition of the Guidelines. The Food Guide Pyramid puts the Guidelines into action by defining the amounts and types of foods to eat daily. The research base for the Food Guide Pyramid is well-documented and widely endorsed by specialists from the nutrition and health communities.



News Releases-

Release No. 0462.94

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USDA TO RUN AMERICORPS NATIONAL SERVICE PROGRAM

WASHINGTON, June 20--Secretary of Agriculture Mike Espy announced today that the U.S. Department of Agriculture will run 42 different AmeriCorps projects that are designed to fight hunger and improve nutrition, preserve national forests and improve community environmental quality, promote rural development and increase rural water delivery, and boost ongoing flood-relief efforts in the Midwest.

The USDA program, funded in part by a grant from the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS), will be the largest single federal agency component of the President's national service initiative.

"President Clinton has made it clear to members of his Cabinet that national service is one of his top priorities, and I am especially pleased that USDA will be playing a key role in the AmeriCorps program," said Espy. "The USDA projects will fulfill the President's vision that national service bring together citizens of varied backgrounds to perform services vital to their communities."

Espy announced that beginning this September, USDA will place 1,200 AmeriCorps national service participants throughout urban and rural America. The participants in these projects will be placed in 32 states, representing every region of the country.

AmeriCorps is President Clinton's national service initiative that allows diverse groups of Americans to earn college or vocational school scholarships while performing critical service to meet human, environmental, public safety, and educational needs. Participants in the program will work for a year earning a stipend of at least \$7,500, and then receive an educational voucher worth \$4,725.

Americans 17 years of age or older may apply for the USDA programs by calling 1-800-880-4183.

"Grounded in the mainstream values of community, responsibility, and opportunity, national service makes sense because it meets multiple ends," Espy said. "It is good for the participants who benefit from their increased ability to attend college or vocational school, good for the communities which benefit from their service and good for the country which benefits from a renewed civic spirit. Moreover, the program is good for USDA because it gives us new ways to boost our mission areas of fighting hunger, protecting the environment and rebuilding rural America."

CNCS is an independent federal corporation created by the National and Community Service Trust Act of 1993. Its purpose is to administer national service programs and provide funding on a competitive basis for national service programs that address the nation's education, human, public safety and environmental needs.

Under provisions that are unique to that Act, federal agencies are empowered to compete against each other in a competitive grant process to obtain funds from CNCS. The White House announced today that, as a result of the first year of this process, CNCS had awarded USDA 1,200 AmeriCorps slots and \$2.6 million in operating funds. Funds for the Department's program will also be provided from existing USDA programs and from non-profit organizations that serve as partners at individual sites.

The USDA AmeriCorps projects reflect a new emphasis on cooperation among USDA agencies. USDA's Agricultural Research Service, Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service, Farmers Home Administration, Food and Nutrition Service, Forest Service, Rural Development Administration, Rural Electrification Administration, and Soil Conservation Service will play significant roles in managing this program.

The Anti-Hunger projects will be at five sites--two rural and three urban--with high levels of hunger and poverty. The projects will work to reduce the number of citizens suffering from hunger and improve the nutritional content of family diets. This program has been designed, and is to run, as a unique partnership between USDA, youth service corps and local anti-hunger groups.

The environmental projects will occur at 32 rural and urban sites in 21 states. The goals of the projects are to help solve local environmental problems, protect local watersheds, repair and upgrade community facilities, promote sustainable agriculture, conduct environmental education seminars, and preserve and restore national forests.

The rural development projects will engage generally older participants, who are college graduates and professional school graduates, in work in 10 pilot regions throughout America. Participants are to help communities protect watersheds, improve housing, promote economic development, boost sustainable agriculture, and aid the Clinton Administration's Empowerment Zone and Enterprise Community initiative. Special disaster-relief projects will also be run in the eight Midwest states most impacted by last summer's record flooding.

USDA AMERICORPS SITES
(To start operation September 1994)

ANTI-HUNGER -

- #1 Vermont, state-wide
- #2 District of Columbia
- #3 Milwaukee, Wis.
- #4 Mississippi Delta, Miss.
- #5 Los Angeles, Calif.

PUBLIC LANDS AND THE ENVIRONMENT -

- #6 Western Kansas
- #7 Western Oklahoma
- #8 Texas Coast
- #9 Atlanta, Ga.
- #10 Boston, Mass.
- #11 East St. Louis, Ill.
- #12 New Jersey, state-wide
- #13 District of Columbia
- #14 Chicago, Ill.
- #15 Portland, Ore.
- #16 San Bernadino National Forrest, Southern California
- #17 Six Rivers National Forrest, Northern California
- #18 Olympic National Forest Washington State
- #19 Rogue River National Forest, Southern Oregon
- #20 Arizona, state-wide national forests
- #21 Bienville National Forrest, Miss.
- #22 Green Mountain National Forest, Vt.
- #23 White Mountain National Forest, N.H.

RURAL DEVELOPMENT -

- #24 New England (Maine, Vermont, Northwestern New York)
- #25 Appalachia (Tennessee, Virginia, West Virginia)
- #26 South Carolina, state-wide
- #27 Mississippi Delta (Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi)
- #28 Great Lakes (Michigan, Ohio)
- #29 Minnesota, state-wide
- #30 Texas Colonias
- #31 Four Corners (Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico, Utah)
- #32 Pacific Northwest (Oregon, Washington)
- #33 California, state-wide

FLOOD RELIEF -

- #34 Illinois
- #35 Iowa
- #36 Kansas
- #37 Minnesota
- #38 Missouri
- #39 Nebraska
- #40 North Dakota
- #41 South Dakota
- #42 Wisconsin

Call Joel Berg at (202) 720-6350 for information on specific sites.



Release No. 0464.94
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USDA FORMS PREHARVEST FOOD SAFETY TEAM

WASHINGTON, June 21 -- The U.S. Department of Agriculture today announced the formation of a preharvest food safety project team within the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service. The team will focus on developing a partnership framework to sponsor and facilitate certain food safety activities. The goal is to reduce the level of pathogens that food animals carry prior to slaughter.

"Responding to food safety concerns is a number-one priority in USDA," said Pat Jensen, acting assistant secretary for USDA's Marketing and Inspection Services. "It is critical that we focus immediately on three objectives: education, quality assurance and research.

"With its existing infrastructure for animal disease surveillance, monitoring and traceback," Jensen said, "APHIS is in a unique position to assume a leadership role in preharvest food safety."

In particular, the APHIS team will try to determine places in the food animal production chain at which pathogens harmful to humans are most likely to be introduced. The team can then develop intervention strategies based on a hazard analysis and critical control point (HACCP) system. HACCP identifies the points in a process where failure to take appropriate action will most likely jeopardize the outcome.

Specific initiatives will include (1) coordinating preharvest food safety education and (2) working with industry groups on preharvest HACCP quality assurance programs that reduce the risk of pathogenic microorganism contamination during livestock production and marketing.

APHIS will also train veterinary food safety officers who will work with public health officials and the Centers for Disease Control in response to outbreaks of [E. coli] O157:H7 and other food-borne diseases.

The APHIS preharvest food safety team is headed by Dr. Bonnie Buntain and is a part of APHIS' Veterinary Services in Hyattsville, Md.



Release No. 0465.94
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USDA UPGRADES NEW YORK TO TUBERCULOSIS-FREE STATUS FOR CATTLE AND BISON

WASHINGTON, June 21--The U.S. Department of Agriculture has raised the status of New York to "accredited-free" in the national eradication program for bovine tuberculosis.

"We commend the cattle industry, state animal health officials and private veterinary practitioners of New York for working together to restore the tuberculosis-free status of their state," said Donald Luchsinger, acting deputy administrator for veterinary services in USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

New York first obtained accredited-free status in the National Cooperative Federal-State Tuberculosis Eradication Program in 1980. An outbreak of bovine tuberculosis in farm-raised cervids (deer and elk) spread to cattle in 1992, causing New York to be downgraded to modified accredited-free status in the program. Intensive efforts to depopulate infected herds and to conduct widespread testing and extensive epidemiological investigations over the past two years restored the state's accredited-free status.

USDA designates each state's status in the eradication program based on evidence of freedom from tuberculosis in cattle and bison, the effectiveness of the state's tuberculosis eradication program and the state program's compliance with national standards. To attain "accredited-free" status, a state must not find cases of tuberculosis in cattle or bison for at least five years. To have accredited-free status restored, a state must not find new cases for at least two years and must meet other program requirements. Including New York, currently 42 states have accredited-free status.

Cattle or bison that are from accredited-free or modified accredited-free areas and that are not known to be affected with or exposed to tuberculosis are eligible for interstate movement without restriction or testing requirements. Restrictions apply to cattle and bison from nonmodified accredited areas with a higher incidence of tuberculosis. The owners of the 21,000 cattle herds in New York stand to benefit economically from the upgrade, as many national and international buyers prefer cattle and bison from accredited-free states.

Bovine tuberculosis is caused by *Mycobacterium bovis*, which can cause disease in many animal species, including cattle, bison, deer and elk. Although the current resurgence of human tuberculosis is caused by a different bacteria than *M. bovis*, humans can contract bovine tuberculosis by breathing respiratory excretions from infected animals or from drinking unpasteurized milk from infected animals.

This interim rule was effective upon publication in the June 6 Federal Register. Written comments will be considered if received before Aug. 5. To comment, send an original and three copies referring to docket number 94-047-1 to Chief, Regulatory Analysis and Development, PPD, APHIS, Room 804 Federal Building, 6505 Belcrest Road, Hyattsville, Md. 20782. Comments once received may be reviewed at USDA, Room 1141 South Building, 14th Street and Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C., between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays. Persons wishing to review comments are encouraged to call ahead on (202) 690-2817 to facilitate entry into the comment reading room.

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Release No. 0466.94
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FGIS SEEKS NOMINATIONS FOR ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Washington, June 21 -- The U.S. Department of Agriculture is seeking nominations for five members and six alternates to serve 3-year terms on the Federal Grain Inspection Service Advisory Committee.

The Committee advises USDA on implementation of the U.S. Grain Standards Act. The 15 committee members represent the interests of grain producers, processors, handlers, merchandisers, exporters, scientists, and consumers.

Members of the committee serve without compensation, but are reimbursed for expenses for travel in performance of committee service.

Persons interested in serving on the Federal Grain Inspection Service Advisory Committee, or in nominating individuals to serve, should contact: David R. Shipman, Acting Administrator, FGIS, Room 1094-S, P.O. Box 96454, Washington, D.C. 20090-6454, in writing and request Form AD-755, which must be completed and submitted to the above address not later than August 22, 1994. Selection of new members and alternates will be made by the Secretary of Agriculture.

Nominations are open to all individuals without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, mental or physical handicap, or marital status.

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Release No. 0467.94
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USDA TO RULE ON GENETICALLY ENGINEERED CANOLA

WASHINGTON, June 21 -- The U.S. Department of Agriculture is asking the public for comments on the Calgene company's petition for a determination of nonregulated status for their genetically engineered Laurate canola plants.

Since 1992 Calgene, Inc., of Davis, Calif., has safely conducted 16 field trials of their bioengineered canola plants under five USDA permits and none of the trials have resulted in a plant pest risk, said John Payne, acting director of biotechnology, biologics and environmental protection for USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

"After reviewing the field trial information submitted by Calgene, as well as other relevant data and public comments, we'll determine whether it is appropriate to approve or deny their request that we no longer regulate these Laurate canola plants," Payne said.

The Laurate canola is currently regulated because it contains gene sequences derived from plant pathogenic sources. Lauric acid is a major component in laundry detergent and shampoo. Edible uses of high laurate oils include nondairy coffee whiteners and whipped toppings. Current sources of laurate are coconut and palm kernel oils.

Payne said that USDA regulators have the responsibility to assure that in releasing any bioengineered product, no plant pest risk is presented. APHIS reviewers focus on the biology, propagation and cultivation of the plant. The reviewers examine the source of the engineered genes, the DNA used to carry those genes, and the stability of the inserted genes.

In the process of reviewing applications for field trials with Laurate canola, APHIS reviewers determined that the DNA used to carry those genes, as well as the other elements used, did not present a plant pest risk. In the current review process, APHIS regulators will reinspect all the data.

For further information contact Sivramiah Shantharam, chief, Microorganisms Branch, biotechnology permits, BBEP, APHIS, USDA, Room 850, Federal Building, 6505 Belcrest Road, Hyattsville, Md. 20782, (301) 436-7612. To obtain a copy of the Calgene petition, contact Kay Peterson at the same address, (301) 436-7601.

Notice of this action was published in the June 14 Federal Register. Comments will be considered if received on or before Aug. 15. An original and three copies of written comments referring to docket number 94-052-1 should be sent to Chief, Regulatory Analysis and Development, PPD, APHIS, USDA, Room 804 Federal Building, 6505 Belcrest Road, Hyattsville, Md. 20782. Comments may be reviewed at USDA, Room 1141 South Building, 14th and Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C., between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays. Persons wishing access to this room are asked to call in advance of visiting at (202) 690-2817.

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Release No. 0468.94
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USDA TESTS INSECT PATHOGENS AS POSSIBLE BIOCONTROLS FOR NEW CITRUS PEST

WASHINGTON, June 21--Insect pathogens are being tested as potential biocontrols for the citrus leafminer, a new pest eating its way through Florida's citrus groves, U.S. Department of Agriculture scientists report.

The scientists are using environmentally safe fungi, bacteria, viruses and nematodes in efforts to stop the leafminer. Since the pest first appeared in Florida in May 1993, it has spread rapidly throughout the state and has inflicted enough injury to pose a possible threat to citrus groves and nurseries, said Jeffrey P. Shapiro, an entomologist with USDA's Agricultural Research Service.

"We have developed a leafminer colony here at the lab so we have some working knowledge about the insect and its habits," Shapiro said. The research, funded by the Florida Citrus Production Research Advisory Council, is underway at the ARS Horticultural Research Laboratory in Orlando.

All of the pathogens being used by Shapiro and ARS entomologist William J. Schroeder are commercially available and host-specific. This means they won't attack any beneficial insects and will harm only their "target" pest, Schroeder said.

"We plan to mix a 'surfactant' with the pathogens so they can be sprayed on plants," Shapiro said. "This will enhance the activity of the pathogen with little or no toxicity to the plant or to the pathogen."

Surfactants are compounds that keep the materials on the surface of plants, retain water and prolong the life of the biocontrol agents. Shapiro noted that they also provide uniform coverage, increase mobility of the active insecticidal agent and increase penetration of tiny spaces like the entrances to the mines made by the pest.

Over the next four months, Shapiro and Schroeder will evaluate the use of insect pathogens on Florida nurseries and groves. They will use *Paecilomyces* spp. fungi, *Bacillus thuringiensis* bacteria, the nuclear polyhedrosis virus (NPV) and *Steinernema carpocapsae* nematodes.

One problem in controlling the leafminer is limited access to the insect because of the tunnels or mines it makes into leaves, Schroeder said. Chemical sprays often miss the insect because of these hiding places, but the surfactants should alleviate this problem.

Schroeder said insect pathogens have several advantages over chemicals. Biocontrols can be applied without registration with the Environmental Protection Agency, and they are safe to the environment and to the person applying them. Also, the insect pathogens don't need to be imported, held in quarantine, reared, tested, approved, and then mass-reared for release--as do exotic parasites.

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NOTE TO EDITORS: Contact for details Jeffrey P. Shapiro or William J. Schroeder, U.S. Horticultural Research Laboratory, Agricultural Research Service, USDA, Orlando, Fla. 32803. Telephone: (407) 897-7300.

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Release No. 0470.94
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USDA REQUIRES ADVANCE PAYMENT IN FULL TO USE ANIMAL QUARANTINE FACILITIES

WASHINGTON, June 21 -- The U.S. Department of Agriculture will now require importers of horses, ruminants and swine to pay in advance for the full estimated cost of care, feed and handling of the animals at USDA quarantine facilities.

Previously importers paid 25 percent of the estimated cost of the quarantine in advance up to \$2,500. Under new requirements, importers will be charged the same amount of fees as currently required for the quarantine but will now have to pay the estimated total balance in advance.

"We know from our experience of conducting quarantines that requiring only a partial payment of the estimated costs prior to the actual quarantine leaves USDA vulnerable to significant financial losses if an importer abandons animals at our facilities," said Donald Luchsinger, acting deputy administrator for veterinary services in USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

Luchsinger said there have been several cases in the last few years where it cost USDA considerable amounts of money to hold animals in quarantine after importers abandoned them.

This final rule is scheduled for publication in the June 21 Federal Register and becomes effective on July 21.

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Release No. 0473.94
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WEIGHT TRAINING RESTORES MUSCLE STRENGTH, MOBILITY IN FRAIL ELDERLY

WASHINGTON, June 22--Nursing home residents in their 80s and 90s walked faster, climbed stairs more easily and were more physically active after doubling their leg muscle strength through weight training, according to a study supported by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the National Institute of Aging and others.

The findings, reported in the June 23rd issue of the New England Journal of Medicine, conclude that "high-intensity resistance training is a feasible and effective means to counter muscle weakness and physical frailty in the oldest old." That's good news for the approximately two million Americans living in nursing homes.

The exercises "helped me tremendously," said 88-year-old Sara Chiller, who limps from an accident she sustained years ago. She still goes to the training room every day and uses three machines--unassisted.

Study leader Maria Fiatarone of USDA's Human Nutrition Research Center on Aging at Tufts in Boston said that "loss of muscle strength and mass is linked to physical frailty, functional disability and

falls in the aged." Falls are the most common accidental injury among the elderly, especially nursing home residents, she added.

Fiatarone, head of physiology studies at the USDA center and an assistant professor in the aging division of Harvard Medical School, conducted this research to find ways to abate muscle loss as part of the National Institute of Aging's program to prevent frailty and injuries in the elderly. The USDA center is funded by the Agricultural Research Service.

She and colleagues conducted a 10-week trial with 100 residents of the Hebrew Rehabilitation Center for Aged in Boston's suburbs. They tested the effects of progressive resistance training on the volunteers' thigh and hip muscles with and without an added 360-calorie, multinutrient supplement.

"Although many factors contribute to the loss of muscle strength and mass," said Fiatarone, "disuse and undernutrition have the potential to be prevented or reversed."

Harry Lubar, age 93, said he volunteered for the study "because I want to be as active as I possibly can." He liked the staff and the equipment and didn't find the sessions physically difficult. In fact, he's still "doing four or five different exercises" once a week and plans to increase to twice a week.

Fiatarone said half of the 100 subjects worked hip and thigh muscle groups important to mobility during 45-minute sessions three days a week. Resistance was set at 80 percent of the maximum weight each participant could lift in a given session. The other 50 subjects participated in a recreational activity of their choice, including aerobic or flexibility exercises.

Half of the weight lifters and half of the control group were given a 360-calorie, high-carbohydrate drink each day while the others got a 4-calorie placebo, she said. Neither staff nor subjects knew who got what. But the high-carbohydrate, low-fat supplement had no measurable effect on these functions, she said. "The exercise effect is so powerful that it dwarfs any effects of nutritional supplementation."

The 50 subjects who lifted weights more than doubled their leg muscle strength on average, compared to a minimal gain among the non-exercise group. The exercise group also improved their walking speed by 12 percent and their ability to climb stairs by nearly 30 percent, compared to little or no improvements in the non-exercisers.

She said the supplement increased total calorie intake only in the subjects who were also exercising. The non-exercisers simply substituted the calories in the supplement for those from their normal food intake.

"You can't just give malnourished elderly extra nutrition," she said. "You have to give them more activity in order to get them to eat more."

Chiller--the 88-year-old study participant--offered this advice to nursing home residents: "Even if the home doesn't have equipment, you can try to walk. You have to keep moving."

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NOTE TO EDITORS: For details, contact Maria Fiatarone, M.D., Physiology Laboratory, Human Nutrition Research Center on Aging at Tufts, Agricultural Research Service, USDA, Boston, Mass. 02111. Telephone: (617) 556-3075; fax (617) 556-3083. She can be reached June 22 pm at the Hebrew Rehabilitation Center for Aged, (617) 325-8000, ext. 284.

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Release No. 0474.94
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USDA PROTECTS 20 NEW VARIETIES OF SEED-REPRODUCED PLANTS

WASHINGTON, June 22--The U.S. Department of Agriculture has issued certificates of protection to developers of 20 new varieties of seed-reproduced plants including corn, cotton, tall fescue, lespedeza, radish, sorghum, soybean and wheat.

Kenneth H. Evans, the commissioner of plant variety and protection with USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service in Washington, D.C., said developers of the new varieties will have the exclusive right to reproduce, sell, import and export their products in the United States for 18 years. Certificates

of protection are granted after a review of the breeders' records and claims that each new variety is novel, uniform and stable.

The following varieties have been issued certificates of protection:

--the 8M129 variety of corn, developed by Dekalb Plant Genetics, DeKalb, Ill.;

--the HS Salcot 10 variety of cotton, developed by the Hyperformer Seed Co., Memphis, Tenn.;

--the Tamcot 2111 variety of cotton, developed by the Texas Agricultural Experiment Station, College Station, Texas;

--the Georgia King variety of cotton, developed by the University of Georgia Research Foundation Inc., Athens, Ga.;

--the Terra 292 variety of cotton, developed by Terra International Inc., Memphis, Tenn.;

--the Finelawn 88 variety of tall fescue, developed by Finelawn Research Inc., Lake Oswego, Ore.;

--the Safari variety of tall fescue, developed by Pure-Seed Testing Inc. Hubbard, Oregon;

--the AU Donnelly variety of lespedeza, developed by Auburn University and the Alabama Agricultural Experiment Station, Auburn, Ala.;

--the Ruby variety of radish, developed by the Alf Christianson Seed Co., Mount Vernon, Wash.;

--the PH256 variety of sorghum, developed by Pioneer Hi-Bred International Inc., Des Moines, Iowa;

--the Manokin variety of soybean, developed by the Maryland Agricultural Experiment Station, College Park, Md.;

--the Cavalier variety of wheat, developed by the Farmers Marketing Corp., Phoenix, Ariz.;

--the Rawhide variety of wheat developed by the University of Nebraska and USDA's Agricultural Research Service, Lincoln, Neb.;

--the TAM 109 variety of wheat, developed by the Texas Agricultural Experiment Station, College Station, Texas;

--the Savannah, Laredo and Ogallala varieties of wheat, developed by AgriPro Biosciences Inc., Shawnee Mission, Kans.;

--the Coker 9134 and Coker 9543 varieties of wheat, developed by the Northrup King Co., Washington, Iowa; and

--the Yuma variety of wheat, developed by the Colorado State University, Fort Collins, Col.

The certificates of protection for the Tamcot 2111 cotton variety, the Manokin soybean variety and the Cavalier, Rawhide, TAM 109, Savannah, Laredo, Ogallala, Coker 9543 and Yuma wheat varieties are being issued for sale by variety name only as a class of certified seed and to conform to the number of generations specified by the owner.

AMS administers the plant variety protection program which provides marketing protection to developers of new and distinctive seed-reproduced plants ranging from farm crops to flowers.

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Release No. 0475.94
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USDA RAISES FEES FOR ITS FRESH FRUIT AND VEGETABLE MARKET GRADING SERVICES

WASHINGTON, June 22--The U.S. Department of Agriculture is raising fees charged for fresh fruit and vegetable grading and certification services it performs at terminal markets.

Lon Hatamiya, administrator of USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service, said the increase is needed to rebuild the program's operating reserve and recover the prorated cost of developing U.S. grade standards. Cost-cutting actions to be implemented in fiscal year 1994 are expected to save approxi-

mately \$350,000 annually (beginning in fiscal year 1995), but further action is needed to recover expenses.

The fees for inspections of one to four products from the same trailer or railcar are increasing as follows:

-- from \$68 to \$74 for quality and condition inspections for more than a half carlot equivalent of each product;

-- from \$57 to \$62 for quality and condition inspections for a half carlot equivalent or less of each product;

-- from \$57 to \$62 for condition inspections for more than a half carlot equivalent of each product;

-- from \$52 to \$56 for condition inspections for a half carlot equivalent or less of each product.

The fee for inspection of five or more products unloaded directly from the same trailer or railcar is increasing from \$242 to \$264 for the first five products, and from \$11 to \$37 for each additional product.

The fee to list an additional lot of a product unloaded from the same trailer or railcar on an inspection certificate is increasing from \$11 to \$12.

For dock-side inspections, the minimum fee for each individual product inspected is increasing from \$68 to \$74. Package fees for dock-side inspections remain unchanged, but a \$12 fee to list an additional lot of a product on an inspection certificate will now apply in addition to the package fees.

The fee for other types of inspections is increasing from \$34 an hour to \$37 an hour during the grader's regular hours and from \$51 to \$55 during premium or holiday hours.

A new inspection fee of \$37 will be charged for a quality and condition or condition-only inspection of a small lot (50 packages or less of the same product) that is unloaded from the same trailer or railcar. This new fee will be used in lieu of the higher half carlot equivalent fee.

Fiscal year 1994 agriculture appropriations require USDA to establish a user fee program to recover the cost of developing and maintaining U.S. grade standards for agricultural commodities. At terminal markets, USDA provides official inspection, grading, and certification of fresh fruits, vegetables, and other products such as raw nuts and Christmas trees. The service, used primarily by large-scale buyers, is provided on a fee basis. Use of the service is voluntary.

The fee increases were published in the June 20 Federal Register. The increases are to go into effect on June 27. Copies and further information may be obtained from the Fresh Products Branch, Fruit and Vegetable Division, AMS, USDA, Room 2056-S, P.O. Box 96456, Washington, D.C. 20090-6456; telephone (202) 720-5870.

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Release No. 0476.94
Tom Amontree (202) 720-4623

U.S. DETERMINES SWISS CHEESE FROM AUSTRIA, DENMARK, AND GERMANY UNFAIRLY UNDERCUTS U.S. PRODUCT

WASHINGTON, June 22--The U.S. Department of Agriculture today announced the U.S. government has determined that Swiss (Emmentaler) cheese imported from Austria, Denmark, and Germany is being subsidized by these governments and is unfairly undercutting the price of U.S.-produced Swiss cheese.

This determination instructs the U.S. trade representative to notify the governments of Austria, Denmark, and Germany that they have 15 days from notification to eliminate the subsidy or otherwise ensure that the wholesale price of imported cheese is not less than the wholesale price of U.S.-produced product.

If these nations don't resolve the issue within 15 days, the next step would be a recommendation to the President that import fees be imposed to offset the price of undercutting or that the entry of Swiss (Emmentaler) cheese from Austria, Denmark, and Germany be limited.

The U.S. Departments of Agriculture and Commerce began an investigation of the problem after a May 18 complaint by the Farmers Union Milk Marketing Cooperative, the National Milk Producers Federation and other dairy interests groups.

The complaint alleged that Swiss cheese, the product of Austria, Denmark, and Germany, imported under quota, had been and is being sold in the United States on a duty-paid wholesale basis at prices less than the domestic wholesale market prices of similar articles produced in the United States and that the governments of Austria, Denmark, and Germany are providing subsidies with respect to quota cheese.

Under the law, USDA makes the determination of price undercutting, while the Department of Commerce determines the amount of the subsidy. USDA found that the average duty-paid wholesale price of Swiss cheese imported in the New York-New Jersey market during the investigation period of December 1993 through April 1994 was \$1.55 per pound, \$1.56 per pound, and \$1.12 per pound for blocks of Swiss (Emmentaler) cheese imported from Austria, Denmark, and Germany, respectively, compared to the average domestic wholesale market price of \$1.76 per pound for blocks of Swiss cheese produced in the United States.

The Department of Commerce determined that the average daily export restitution payments provided by the European Union on quota Swiss cheese during the investigation period amounted to \$0.74 per pound for Denmark and \$0.73 per pound for Germany. Export restitution payments provided by the Government of Austria on quota Swiss cheese during the investigation period ranged from \$1.847 to \$2.261 per pound.

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Release No. 0479.94

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SCIENTISTS HOPE RUSSIAN PLANT DISEASE CAN HELP CURE WEED PROBLEM IN U.S.

WASHINGTON, June 23--Gardeners normally aim for healthy plants and a bountiful harvest, but U.S. Department of Agriculture scientist Tony Caesar hopes all his plants will die this summer in Russia.

Next month, Caesar will plant a "disease garden" of noxious Montana weeds--known as leafy spurge--in Russia's Caucasus area, one of many places in Eurasia where the species is native. It invaded the U.S. early this century and now infests about 5 million acres, in northern plains states, said Caesar, with USDA's Agricultural Research Service in Bozeman, Mont.

"We want to see if leafy spurge from Montana is susceptible to fungi or other disease organisms that attack its Eurasian ancestors. If so, the organisms could be promising natural controls for leafy spurge," said Caesar, a plant pathologist at ARS's Range Weeds and Cereals Research unit. "Spraying chemical weed killer usually isn't practical because of chemical costs, environmental concerns and the weed's spread on rugged, often remote rangeland" he added.

Without controls, Caesar said, the weed runs rampant and crowds out valuable native plants for grazing livestock and wildlife in the northern plains. It costs ranchers more than \$100 million annually in losses and increases its U.S. land grab by 10 percent a year, Caesar noted.

Caesar's Montana spurge specimens include some from the Fort Belknap Indian reservation. It and other Indian trust lands are among the hardest-hit areas of spurge infestation. Caesar, who is a Pawnee, and U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs soil scientist Dan Spencer, a Navajo, will plant the disease garden in Krasnodar, Russia, at the All-Russian Institute of Biological Control.

Caesar and Spencer plan to return to Bozeman with some diseased Russian spurge collected during their trip. In a quarantine lab, ARS scientists will test the microorganisms to ensure they don't harm U.S. crop plants and plants of medicinal or religious importance to Native Americans.

If the microorganisms pass this test, ARS scientists may apply for permits to release them for field trials against spurge in Montana.

In the Caucasus and elsewhere in Eurasia, leafy spurge is checked by a myriad of diseases and insects.

Caesar and Spencer will spend a week of their June 28-July 15 trip searching for spurge diseases for the Krasnodar test. Alongside the U.S. spurge will be healthy and disease-infected Russian spurge. Russian plant pathologists will oversee the test after the Americans leave.

Previously, three foreign plant diseases have been brought to the U.S. as biocontrols for weeds, two by ARS.

ARS scientists--mainly at the agency's European Biological Control Laboratory in Montpellier, France--have collected and tested many insect enemies of leafy spurge. Several species of helpful midges, moths and beetles have been imported for further studies and field releases, Caesar noted, but "we need an arsenal of different biological controls to suppress this weed."

For example, while certain flea beetles hungrily munch on spurge plants in sunny areas, they pass over those in areas shaded by conifers such as spruce. But a disease organism such as a fungus might thrive on spurge in the shade.

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NOTE TO EDITORS: For details, contact Tony Caesar, Range Weeds and Cereals Research, Agricultural Research Service, USDA, Bozeman, Mont. 59717. Telephone: (406) 994-6850. Fax: (406) 994-4526.

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Program Announcements-

Release No. 0463.94

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Jerry Redding (202) 720-6959

NEW WHEAT AND SOYBEAN PROTEIN REFERENCE METHOD

WASHINGTON, June 21 -- The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Federal Grain Inspection Service (FGIS) today announced a change in its chemical reference method for determining protein content in wheat and soybeans. Effective July 20, FGIS will replace the Kjeldahl method with the Combustion method (AOAC International Method 992.23).

The Combustion method has been recognized by AOAC International, the American Association of Cereal Chemists, and the American Oil Chemists' Society for protein determinations in cereal grains and oilseeds.

According to David Shipman, acting administrator of FGIS, the Combustion method offers several advantages over the Kjeldahl method. It avoids the use of hazardous chemicals, does not produce environmental pollutants, and reduces sample analysis time.

The chemical reference method is used to develop and verify the calibration equations that are used with Near Infrared Spectroscopy instruments for official protein content certification.

Technical Contact: Ronald Bicsak, FGIS Technical Center, (816) 891-0431.

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Release No. 0469.94

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USDA PROPOSES NEW STANDARDS FOR ALL LIVESTOCK EXPORT INSPECTION FACILITIES

WASHINGTON, June 21 -- The U.S. Department of Agriculture proposed today to change several requirements that export inspection facilities located at ports of embarkation must meet to be approved by USDA to handle U.S. animal exports.

The proposed standards would require these USDA-approved export inspection facilities to have running water, drainage systems, storage areas and telephones. The drainage system must be able to control surface drainage into and out of the facility to prevent any possible spread of disease or contamination.

To ensure that only healthy animals are exported from the United States, USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) is also proposing to require that all animals intended for exportation be inspected by an APHIS veterinarian within 24 hours of embarkation.

The proposed rule also raises the minimum ceiling height and requires walkways in export inspection facilities handling horses, to ensure the safety of the horses and the APHIS veterinarian. A minimum ceiling height of 12 feet would be required in areas where horses are held to ensure they have enough room to rear up. Export inspection facilities that handle horses would also have to provide walkways in front of the animals' stalls that are wide enough to allow APHIS veterinarians and other employees to monitor and inspect the animals without having to enter the stalls. The walkways will protect APHIS inspectors from being kicked by the horses.

To receive USDA designation as a port of embarkation, a port must have an export inspection facility that provides for inspection, holding and feeding and watering of animals prior to embarkation. Export inspection facilities also must meet USDA standards concerning materials, size, inspection, cleaning and disinfection, feed and water, access, testing and treatment, location, disposal of animal wastes, lighting and restroom facilities.

Though a small number of currently approved export inspection facilities do not have water drainage systems, most already meet all of these proposed requirements, which would be added to USDA regulations to merely codify existing industry practices. Currently approved facilities lacking drainage systems would have to make significant structural changes and would be given two years after the publication of the final rule to complete them.

This proposed rule is scheduled for publication in the June 21 Federal Register.

To comment, send an original and three copies referring to docket number 93-122-1 on or before Aug. 22 to: Chief, Regulatory Analysis and Development, PPD, APHIS, USDA, Room 804 Federal Building, 6505 Belcrest Road, Hyattsville, Md. 20782. Comments once received may be reviewed at USDA, Room 1141 South Building, 14th Street and Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C., Monday through Friday, except holidays. Persons wishing to review comments are requested to call ahead on (202) 690-2817 to facilitate entry into the comment reading room.

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Release No. 0471.94
Gene Rosera (202) 720-6734

USDA ANNOUNCES PREVAILING WORLD MARKET RICE PRICES

WASHINGTON, June 21--Acting Under Secretary of Agriculture Dallas Smith today announced the prevailing world market prices of milled rice, loan rate basis, as follows:

--long grain whole kernels:	8.67 cents per pound
--medium grain whole kernels:	11.37 cents per pound
--short grain whole kernels:	11.22 cents per pound
--broken kernels:	4.33 cents per pound

Based upon these milled rice world market prices, loan deficiency payment (LDP) rates, gains from repaying price support loans at the world market price, and marketing certificate rates are:

	Loan Gain and LDP Rate	Marketing Certificate Rate
.....\$/Cwt.....		
--for long grain:	\$1.28	\$0.00
--for medium grain:	\$0.00	\$0.00
--for short grain:	\$0.00	\$0.00

The announced prices and rates are effective today at 3:00 P.M. EDT. The next scheduled price announcement will be made June 28, 1994 at 3:00 P.M. EDT.

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USDA ANNOUNCES RATE CHANGE ON IMPORTER ASSESSMENTS FOR TOBACCO

WASHINGTON, June 21--The U.S. Department of Agriculture today announced new rates for assessments on imported unmanufactured tobacco as required by the Agricultural Act of 1949.

The 1949 Act provides for a budget deficit marketing assessment (applicable to all tobacco) and importer no-net-cost assessments (applicable to burley and flue-cured tobacco only) on each pound of tobacco imported for consumption into the commerce of the United States.

Grant Buntrock, executive vice president of USDA's Commodity Credit Corporation, said that, effective July 1 through Sept. 30, 1994, the budget deficit marketing assessment rate will be 1.6330 cents per pound or 3.6001 cents per kilogram. For that period the importer no-net-cost assessments will be 6.4170 cents per pound or 14.1469 cents per kilogram for flue-cured and 2.8170 cents per pound or 6.2104 cents per kilogram for burley.

Buntrock said that, effective Oct. 1, 1994 through June 30, 1995, the budget deficit marketing assessment rate will be 1.6485 cents per pound or 3.6343 cents per kilogram. The importer no-net-cost assessments for this period will remain at 6.4170 cents per pound or 14.1469 cents per kilogram for flue-cured but will increase to 7.3860 cents per pound or 16.2832 cents per kilogram for burley.

The applicable assessments are due within 10 workdays after such tobacco has been released by the U.S. Customs Service for entry for consumption into the commerce of the United States, Buntrock said.

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USDA ANNOUNCES PREVAILING WORLD MARKET PRICE AND USER MARKETING CERTIFICATE PAYMENT RATE FOR UPLAND COTTON

WASHINGTON, June 23--Grant Buntrock, executive vice president of USDA's Commodity Credit Corporation, today announced the prevailing world market price, adjusted to U.S. quality and location (adjusted world price or AWP), for Strict Low Middling (SLM) 1-1/16 inch (leaf grade 4, micronaire 3.5-3.6 and 4.3-4.9, strength 24-25 grams per tex) upland cotton (base quality), and the coarse count adjustment (CCA) in effect from 5:00 p.m. today through 3:59 p.m. Thursday, June 30. The user marketing certificate payment rate announced today is in effect from 12:01 a.m. Friday, June 24 through midnight Thursday, June 30.

This period represents Week 6 of the 6-week transition period from using current shipment prices to using forward shipment prices in the AWP calculation. For Weeks 5 and 6, the Northern Europe (NE) price = [NE current price + (2 x NE forward price)]/3. The USNE price = [USNE current price + (2 x USNE forward price)]/3.

The Agricultural Act of 1949, as amended, provides that the AWP may be further adjusted if: (a) the AWP is less than 115 percent of the current crop year loan rate for base quality upland cotton, and (b) the Friday-through-Thursday average price quotation for the lowest-priced U.S. growth as quoted for Middling (M) 1-3/32 inch cotton, C.I.F. northern Europe (USNE price) exceeds the Northern Europe (NE) price. Because this week's calculated AWP is equal to 134 percent of the 1993 upland cotton base quality loan rate, a further adjustment cannot be made.

Because both current and forward NE coarse count prices are not yet available, the CCA is calculated using the NE current price and the only NE coarse count price available.

This week's AWP and CCA are determined as follows:

Adjusted World Price

NE Price	83.72
Adjustments:	
Avg. U.S. spot market location	11.91
SLM 1-1/16 inch cotton	1.50
Avg. U.S. location	0.31
Sum of Adjustments	<u>- 13.72</u>
ADJUSTED WORLD PRICE	70.00 cents/lb.

Coarse Count Adjustment

NE Price Current Price.....	85.57
NE Coarse Count Price	<u>- 83.73</u>
	1.84
Adjustment to SLM 1-1/32 inch cotton	<u>- 3.20</u>
	- 1.36
COARSE COUNT ADJUSTMENT	0 cents/lb.

Because the AWP is above 52.35 cents per pound--the base quality loan rate for both the 1992 and 1993 marketing years--the loan repayment rate during this period is equal to the loan rate, adjusted for the specific quality and location plus applicable interest and storage charges. The AWP will continue to be used to determine the value of upland cotton that is obtained in exchange for commodity certificates.

The USNE current price has not exceeded the NE current price by more than 1.25 cents per pound for four consecutive weeks, and not all of the previous four AWP's have been less than 130 percent of the 1993 crop year base quality loan rate. As a result, the current user marketing certificate payment rate is zero. This rate is applicable during the Friday-through-Thursday period for bales opened by domestic users and for cotton contracts entered into by exporters for delivery prior to Sept. 30, 1994. Relevant data are summarized below:

Week	For the Friday-through- Thursday Period Ending	Announced AWP		Current User Marketing Certificate Payment Rate		
		As Percent of the 1993 Loan Rate		USNE Price	NE Price cents/lb
1	June 2, 1994	135.5	90.38 (c)	86.63 (c)	0	
2	June 9, 1994	135.6	89.45 (c)	86.65 (c)	0	
3	June 16, 1994	134.8	88.45 (c)	86.39 (c)	0	
4	June 23, 1994	133.7	86.65 (c)	85.57 (c)	0	

(c) Based on current price quotations.

The forward user marketing certificate payment rate is based on the lower of: a) the difference in the fourth week between the USNE forward price and the NE forward price, minus 1.25 cents, or b) 20 percent of the difference in the fourth week between the USNE forward price and the NE forward price, minus 1.25 cents plus the previous week's rate for which forward shipments were eligible. Although the USNE forward price has exceeded the NE forward price by more than 1.25 cents per pound for four consecutive weeks, not all of the previous four AWP's have been less than 130 percent of the 1994 crop year base quality loan rate. As a result, the forward user marketing certificate payment rate is zero. The forward payment rate is applicable during the Friday-through-Thursday period for contracts entered into by exporters for delivery after Sept. 30, 1994. Relevant data are summarized below:

Week	For the Friday-through- Thursday Period Ending	Announced AWP As Percent of the 1994 Loan Rate 1/	USNE Forward Price	NE Forward Price	Forward User Marketing Certificate Payment Rate
		 cents/lb		
1	June 2, 1994	141.8	84.38 (f)	82.65 (f)	n/a
2	June 9, 1994	142.0	84.30 (f)	82.79 (f)	0
3	June 16, 1994	141.2	84.90 (f)	83.27 (f)	0
4	June 23, 1994	140.0	84.15 (f)	82.80 (f)	0

(f) Based on forward price quotations.

1/ 1994 Loan Rate is 50.00 cents per pound.

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Next week's AWP, CCA and user marketing certificate payment rates will be announced on Thursday, June 23 at 5 p.m.

